

# When Christian Prayer becomes a Criminal Offense

by Jeremy James



We referred in an earlier paper (#161) to a Bill which had been brought before the Irish Parliament, known as the Prohibition of Conversion Therapies Bill, 2018. The Houses of the Oireachtas website describes it as a “Bill entitled an Act to prohibit conversion therapy, as a deceptive and harmful act or practice against a person's sexual orientation, gender identity and, or gender expression.”

It was sponsored by Sinn Féin, which is currently the most popular political party in Ireland, and supported by members of the other main parties. The Bill is currently at Committee Stage (detailed review) in the Seanad. After approval by the Seanad it will go before the Dáil (lower house) for consideration.

It has been at the Third Stage since September 2020 which would suggest either that it has run into serious opposition or that it has been superseded by developments on a wider front. There has been little popular resistance to the introduction of legislation of this kind in Ireland, so the latter possibility is more likely the case.

Given that this country is being used by the architects of the New World Order to test resistance to neo-Marxist legislation, of which this Bill is a prime example, the pressure to force it into law would abate only if it had already become law in another jurisdiction. Well, with the passage of a similar Bill in the state of Victoria, this explanation makes a great deal of sense, particularly as the Australian legislation contains provisions which go beyond the Irish Bill as initially proposed.

**Authorised Version No. 002**  
**Change or Suppression (Conversion)**  
**Practices Prohibition Act 2021**

**No. 3 of 2021**

Authorised Version incorporating amendments as at  
17 February 2023

**This Act came into effect in the state of Victoria on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.**  
**The state of Victoria has a population of almost 7 million.**


Christians everywhere need to understand thoroughly what this Act is about because the architects of the New World Order intend to introduce a similar set of legal provisions in every jurisdiction on earth.

The official website of the Victoria police summarizes the main intent of the Act as follows:

Harmful practices that seek to change or suppress sexual orientation or gender identity are against the law. These change or suppression practices are sometimes called 'gay conversion' practices or 'conversion therapy'.

## **About these practices**

Change or suppression (conversion) practices are considered extremely harmful. They are practices that intend to forcibly change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

They are now prohibited as part of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 , which came into effect on 17 February 2022.

It is now a crime to:

- engage in such practice (or practices) directed towards another person where harm is caused
- take another person from Victoria (or arrange to) with the intention these practices occur and harm is caused
- publish, display or authorise advertisements or notices encouraging these practices.

**Screenshot from the Victoria Police website:**

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/report-change-or-suppression-conversion-practice>

## **The wicked Australian law**

We could speak at length about the many ways this totalitarian piece of legislation violates our basic human freedoms, but this is not our purpose in this paper. Rather, we wish to focus mainly on just one of these prohibitions, namely the legal restriction that it places on Christian prayer.

The Act was based on recommendations by the **Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission**. Its official website addresses unlawful discrimination on various grounds, including homosexuality. The relevant banner headline reads as follows:

### **LGBTIQ rights**

We are not all the same, but we are all equal. Whether you're lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning, you have the right to equal opportunity. It's against the law for someone to treat you unfairly or bully you because of your sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Note: The "I" in LGBTIQ means "intersex".**

Within this section of its website it includes a subsection dealing with sexual orientation:

### **Sexual orientation**

Love is love. Everyone should be treated equally regardless of their sexuality. It is against the law for someone to treat you unfairly, including bullying you, because of your sexual orientation or what they think your sexual orientation might be.

And within this subsection it includes a reference to the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021:



## **Change or suppression (conversion) practices**

The **Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021** bans practices that aim to change or suppression someone's sexual orientation (or gender identity).

Change or suppression practices can be religious, or faith based, and can also include counselling, psychotherapy, and support groups.

**Read about how this law can protect your right to be yourself, and how to make a report under this law.**

Members of the public are invited to make a complaint to the police in Victoria if they suspect that a local church, for example, is seeking to dissuade a member of their congregation from pursuing a homosexual lifestyle. A crime is still deemed to have been committed if the individual was advised to seek professional Christian help outside the state of Victoria. Remember, the Police website states, "Change or suppression (conversion) practices are considered extremely harmful." As such, any attempt to affirm a person's heterosexual orientation may be regarded under the law as a deliberate attempt to cause harm to that person.

### **The prohibition on Christian prayer**

So far the Australian legislation is very similar to the Irish Bill. However, it introduces something wholly novel and utterly perverse when it adds prayer – specifically prayer intended to assist a person who is battling homosexual desires – to the list of prohibited practices.

Yes, for the first time in history, a democracy has passed a law prohibiting Christian prayer. The Nazis smashed synagogues and the Red Army smashed churches, but neither Hitler nor Stalin made prayer itself a criminal offense!

The **Act** includes the following in its definition of a *change or suppression* practice: "carrying out a religious practice, including but not limited to, a prayer based practice, a deliverance practice or an exorcism".

Lest one imagine that this simple provision could not possibly have the dreadful implications that we have outlined, we refer to the section of the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission website which spells out in stark terms how this "simple" provision will be interpreted and applied. It may be found under the subsection titled "For people of faith, professionals, and other communities":

## **Change or suppression (conversion) practices**

About the Change or  
Suppression (Conversion)  
Practices Prohibition Act

For people of faith,  
professionals, and other  
communities

Have you experienced a  
change or suppression  
practice?

Preventing change and  
suppression practices

Real stories of change and  
suppression practices

Reporting change and  
suppression practices

For families and friends

Investigating change and  
suppression practices

Source: <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/>

### **Details of the anti-Christian Australian legislation**

We set out in **Appendix A** the website material contained in the above section ('For people of faith...'). As one reads through it one realizes that it is absolutely impossible under the Act for a Christian to address the sinfulness of homosexuality if there is any possibility that his or her words or advice could be construed as an attempt to change the 'sexual orientation' of another person. A member of the public could make a complaint to the police, even if he or she was not party to the exchange or known to anyone who might have been. There is an implied burden of proof on the Christian to show that he was not referring to a particular person or group of persons, but it would be virtually impossible to satisfy this requirement.

Consider the following scenario. A newcomer to a Bible Study Group may be present when other members of the Group, all Christians, discuss the sinfulness of homosexuality and the spiritual harm that it causes. The newcomer, who is not a homosexual, goes home and tells his homosexual brother what the other Christians had been discussing. It is very clear from the procedures set out in **Appendix A** that both the newcomer and his brother could complain that his rights under the Act were infringed. Even if they did not take their complaint to the police, they would be able to terminate any further discussion of the sinfulness of homosexuality by the Group and could threaten to take the matter to the police if this alleged violation of their rights was repeated.

As you can see, the Act exercises considerable power even in instances where no legal action is taken.

**Will the Act criminalise counsellors, chaplains or religious leaders attempting to change or suppress someone's gender identity or sexual orientation?**

The Act empowers the Commission to consider and respond to reports of change or suppression practices done by any person, including counsellors, chaplains and religious leaders.

Source: <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/>

The Commission insists that a crime is committed only if harm is caused, but then it goes on to assume that harm is always caused where a Christian makes any disparaging or critical remarks about homosexuality. There is no onus of proof on the complainant to show that harm was caused by the remarks or counsel. The notion of “harm” under the Act is extremely vague, making it impossible for a Christian to defend himself against what amounts to a hate-related charge. (We can see here how the Marxist assault on Christianity relies heavily on supposed harm inflicted on the complainant, akin to an offense under hate crime legislation. See our paper #373.)

**Criminalization where no crime was possible**

The contempt for Christian values by the sponsors of the Act is vividly underlined by the criminalization of advertisements offering ‘conversion’ therapy or counselling services. It is important to note that no particular person or group is identified in such advertisements. Therefore they could not possibly have caused harm to anyone, and yet they are illegal and could attract a prison sentence of up to 10 years! (The Act also includes substantial financial penalties for anyone found guilty of an offense. The Level 5 fine imposed under the Act could be as high to 230,000 Australian dollars, which is equivalent to \$154,000 in the United States!)

This is nothing less than state-sponsored thuggery. The Marxists and Freemasons who rule Victoria are clearly determined to prohibit Christians from ever presenting the Biblical teaching on homosexuality in a public forum. The provisions of the Act are so draconian that even remarks in a private setting that were critical of homosexuality would likely have no protection under the Act and, should they ever become known, could be used as grounds for a complaint.

As we stated earlier, the extreme nature of the censorship enabled by the Act even extends to Christian prayer!

Consider the following pronouncement on the Commission's website regarding what it calls “everyday religious activities”:

**Are everyday religious activities, such as sermons or pastoral conversations that include an explanation of the Bible/Quran (or other religious texts) considered to be illegal under the Act?**

Everyday religious activities will only be considered illegal when they meet the Act's definition of a change or suppression practice.

**To fall under the Act's definition of a change or suppression practice, the conduct must include three elements. It must be:**

- directed at an individual
- because of their sexual orientation or gender identity
- undertaken with the intention to change or induce that person to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Similarly, the criminal offences are narrowly designed to target change or suppression practices that result in injury or serious injury to victims.

This law is not about stopping people from practicing or enjoying their faith, it is about preventing harm – and these practices are harmful.

The closing statement says a great deal about the risk that Christian pastors and preachers will be taking if they caution against homosexual behavior. Their words will be construed as an attempt to “induce” a person (or persons) to change their sexual orientation or gender identity (where gender is an issue). The Commission states bluntly that “these practices are harmful”. This leaves little or no room for a plea of innocence. And since they are harmful they constitute an offense under the Act.

**In prayer we address God, not man!**

One of the most basic of all “religious activities” is prayer. One would have thought that, of all religious activities, this practise would have been exempted from the pall of censorship imposed by the Act. After all, the individual addresses God in prayer, not other persons! Alas, the demonic spirit behind this blighted piece of legislation wants to stamp out congregational prayer which seeks in any way to moderate the incidence of homosexual activity in the community. The Christians who gather to pray for this purpose are at risk of committing a criminal offense, even if they pray in silence!

The box below gives a screenshot of the website text relating to the criminalization of prayer:

### **Prayer “likely to cause harm and be a change or suppression practice”**

Prayers that are directed at a person to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity cause harm and are prohibited.

These could include prayers that:

- ask for healing
- ask for a person to change
- ask for a person to not act on their attractions
- talk about a person’s brokenness or need to repent
- ask for long-term celibacy.

<https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/for-professionals-institutions-and-communities/#Sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity>

## **CONCLUSION**

We strongly urge all Christians to reflect on the step that Satan has taken in Australia and to bring the matter to the attention of their pastors.

Never in history has Christian prayer been criminalized in this way. At the moment the Satanic prohibition is confined to homosexuality and transgenderism, and is applicable only in the state of Victoria, but that can change. The Enemy wants to impose this vile prohibition on all nations and, we surmise, to extend the range of situations, not to mention the categories of sin, for which Christians are forbidden to pray.



This is the Beast system in action. Christians need to understand the high-stakes strategy that the Enemy is now using to neutralize all opposition to his planned One World Religion. The Australian law is a crude expression of his demonic intent, of his determination to use every available means to turn traditional Christian morality upside down.

The prohibition on prayer, even in this ‘restricted’ sense, is a direct attack on the sovereignty of God.

It is also a deliberate ploy to divide professing Christians into two camps, namely those who will go-along-to-get-along and those who will stand firmly by God’s Word. The latter camp is shrinking rapidly. The Enemy did this to great effect during the ‘Covid’ scandal, where the number of pastors and preachers who defied the Marxist-Masonic edicts of their respective governments and continued to assemble their congregations for prayer and worship was abysmally small.

How many will bow to the new morality and behave as though the sins of homosexuality and transgenderism did not exist?

This is persecution in every sense, and it will only get worse unless true believers stand together:

**“Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee,  
that it may be displayed because of the truth.  
Selah.”**

**– Psalm 60:4**

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**Jeremy James  
Ireland  
January 11, 2024**

**p.s. Please see the update to our ‘Special Request’ notice overleaf.**

## **- SPECIAL REQUEST -**

### **Time is running out...**

Regular readers are encouraged to download the papers on this website for safekeeping and future reference. They may not always be available.

For an easy way to download all papers (over 370), please email me.

We are rapidly moving into an era where material of this kind may be obtained only via email. Ireland is on the brink of introducing a draconian censorship law, the first of its kind in the 'free' world, which will shut down sites like this and could result in penalties such as confiscation of property, financial fines and imprisonment for up to five years.

Readers who wish to be included on a future mailing list are welcome to contact me at the following address:-

**jeremypauljames@gmail.com**

For further information visit [www.zephaniah.eu](http://www.zephaniah.eu)

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**Other papers in this series relating to Marxist/Luciferian attacks on Christian prayer:**

### **The Enemy Is Working Stealthily to Replace Our Two Greatest Weapons**

by Jeremy James



"O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked"  
- Psalm 74:19

**#86**

### **Bible-ban Pending in Ireland and California**

by Jeremy James



**#161**

### **The Orchestrated Attack on Congregational Prayer**

by Jeremy James



**#285**

### Continuing to practice faith

This law is not about stopping people from practising or enjoying their faith, it is about preventing harm – and these practices are harmful.

The Act does not prohibit prayer and religious practices, except when they amount to a change or suppression practice.

Your private prayer with your God can continue. You can continue to hold your own view on sexuality and gender.

**Examples of activities that would not be prohibited include:**

- a religious leader delivering a sermon which expresses a general statement of belief
- explaining a religious view of relationships.

These two activities may be considered a change and suppression practice if they are directed at a person for the purpose of changing or suppressing their sexual orientation or gender identity.

There are many ways you can continue to practice your faith without causing harm.

Think about the below situations: what you should avoid doing, and what you might do instead.

[The “below situations” to which the Commission refers relate to *Celibacy*, *Pastoral care*, *Prayer practices*, and *Consent*, respectively. The text provided by the Commission in relation to each is set out in the next four pages.]

**Celibacy: A same-sex attracted member of your congregation is recommended or commits to celibacy on the basis of sexual orientation**

Likely to cause harm and be a change or suppression practice	Ways to continue practicing your faith without causing harm
<p>Prayer (with that person or with their knowledge) that indicates they are broken and need to be healed is likely to be a change or suppression practice because it is conducted for the purpose of changing or suppressing the person's sexual orientation, or convincing them to do so.</p> <p>Denying someone their total self – their sexuality – causes serious and ongoing harm.</p>	<p>Support to these members can include reassuring them that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their God loves them</li> <li>• everyone has a different path</li> <li>• the person belongs in the faith: they are respected and included as they are.</li> </ul> <p>Support in the form of prayer that does not cause harm include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• praying for inner peace</li> </ul>
<p>There is evidence that this can lead to long-term mental health issues and in serious cases, suicide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• praying for guidance for that person</li> <li>• prayer to affirm that the person is made in their God's image, perfect as they are.</li> </ul> <p>Your support can acknowledge and support that person's choice in how they live their life and the struggle they are in.</p> <p>Your support can include referral to affirming peer support (i.e., affirming LGBT members of your faith, or see further below for services).</p>



## **Pastoral care: Someone seeks advice from you about their sexual orientation or gender identity**

Your response to this person should consider any harm caused by your advice or potential for harm.

Conversations risk causing deep harm and being a change and suppression practice when they are conducted for the purpose of changing or suppressing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, for example by telling people:

- how they should feel about themselves
- who they should have sexual relations with
- that their gender identity is not real or acceptable.

You should consider the power you hold within your position and the impact of this in your discussion.

The individual may feel tension and fear rejection if they are asked to choose between their faith and their sexual orientation or gender identity.

There is evidence that this ultimatum leads to harm.

Your support for this person can look like the ways above to continue practising your faith without causing harm.

If you are not comfortable affirming someone's sexuality or gender identity, refer them to a person – or service (see further below for resources) – who can do this and have conversations with them safely.

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## Prayer practices: With or without a LGBT person

These include praying:

- with or for an LGBT person that they might change their sexual orientation or gender identity
- with or for an LGBT person to be celibate.

<b>Likely to cause harm and be a change or suppression practice</b>	<b>Ways to continue practicing your faith without causing harm</b>
<p>Prayers that are directed at a person to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity cause harm and are prohibited.</p> <p>These could include prayers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ask for healing</li><li>• ask for a person to change</li><li>• ask for a person to not act on their attractions</li><li>• talk about a person's brokenness or need to repent</li><li>• ask for long-term celibacy.</li></ul>	<p>There is a broad range of prayers that would be acceptable and supportive.</p> <p>These include prayers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• for guidance</li><li>• that are supporting and reassuring that the person is created in their God's image and perfect the way they are</li><li>• that acknowledge their God loves the individual.</li></ul>

**Consent: Someone has come to you who wants to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity – why can't you help them?**

Likely to cause harm and be a change or suppression practice	Ways to continue practicing your faith without causing harm
<p>Someone may be willing to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity.</p> <p>However, this willingness is heavily influenced by a desire to be accepted, whole and worthy, which comes from a deep identification with that person's faith.</p> <p><b>There is no scientific evidence that sexual orientation or gender identity can be changed or suppressed.</b></p>	<p>You can continue to practice your faith through your private prayers with your God.</p> <p>Your support to that person can acknowledge and support their choice in how they live their life and the struggle they are in.</p> <p>If your knowledge is limited in this space and you are not comfortable having this conversation with that person, refer them to a person – or service (see below for resources) – who can have the conversation with them safely.</p>
<p>Any activity to encourage this person to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity <b>will cause harm</b> and is likely to be a change or suppression practice.</p>	